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such as the entrails and refuse of fish, which all produce useful and valuable fertilising manures. I appeal to your Society for a verdict, and I leave the subject in your hands, it being foreign to my purpose to pursue it any further. Convinced of their value and importance, I respectfully submit to your decision.

No. II.

AMPUTATION OF THE LARGE BRANCHES
OF TREES.

The Thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. HENRY SMITH, Devonshire Buildings, Bath, for the following Communication respecting a new Mode of Operation and Treatment in Cutting off the Large Branches of Trees.

THE object of the following process is to provide against the rot which frequently attacks the stumps of branches which have been cut off, and sometimes penetrates into the body of the tree, rendering the timber wholly unfit for being cut into planks.

The branch is cut off at a distance of three or four feet from the tree, care being taken to support it in a manner to prevent it from splintering the stump. The bark of the stump is then cut into narrow longitudinal strips, which, after being carefully peeled off with a barking tool, as far as the body of the tree, are tied back so as to keep them clear of the saw in the ampu-

tation of the stump close to the body of the tree. The saw-cut surface is then cut smooth with a wide mortice-chisel, and is covered with the strips of bark, cut and fitted to it as accurately as possible, and fastened down with brads driven in to the depth of about one-eighth of an inch. The wound and surrounding parts are next covered to the depth of two or three inches with a cataplasm, according to the following receipt:—

Clay..... 4 parts;
 Fresh cow-dung 2 parts;
 Wood ashes finely sifted..... 1 part.

Add cow's hair, such as that used by plasterers, a handful, or more, according to the quantity of the composition required. Mix these materials together in a very regular manner, moistening them with water to bring the whole to a proper consistence.

In order to preserve the cataplasm from external injury, a stout canvass is passed over it and sewed round the body of the tree. "The bandage and cataplasm must remain on the tree about six or eight months. The removal of the bandage, nails, &c., must depend solely on the healed state of the bark. When the bark is healed, the part of the tree where the amputation of the limb took place will appear as if no limb had grown there." The operation should not be performed during the winter months when the bark will not "run" or separate from the wood, and when the wounded part is liable to be attacked by frost.

The following is an extract from a letter in which Mr. Smith gives the results of one of his experiments:—

"I believe it was about October 1834, I cut off a large limb from an apple-tree growing in my garden,

since let to a tenant. The limb was about six inches in diameter as near as I recollect.

“ I have been to see this apple-tree, about three miles distant from this place. The measured height of the body of the tree, from the ground to where the branches spring out, is five feet. The circumference of the body of the tree where the branch was amputated is four feet three inches and a half. The tree is at least, I think, fifty years old. The bark is healed all over the wounded part, and the appearance of the tree at this particular place is, that no limb had ever grown there.

“ I consider the healing of the wounded part depends much on the skill of the operator. In cases of budding and grafting of trees, the bark heals readily where due caution is observed by the gardener when he buds and grafts.”